



Welcome to our Newsletter!

[AEC Web Site](#)

June 01, 2012

Attend the AEC's Next Meeting!

The Annapolis Environmental Commission's (AEC) meetings are open to the public. We hope you'll join our upcoming discussion about environmental issues facing our city on Wednesday, June 20, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room at 145 Gorman Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Update on the Reserve at Quiet Waters:

The continuation of the Board of Appeals hearing is scheduled for this coming Tuesday, June 5th at 7:00p.m. in the City Council Chambers. We encourage everyone to attend. The Annapolis Board of Appeals heard the RQW matter on April 18, 2012. The City and developers experts were able to testify, uninterrupted for almost two hours on issues which included traffic, public facilities, environmental issues and specifically the Forest Conservation Act. The public and Annapolis Environmental Commission (AEC) were barred, and will continue to be barred from addressing the Forest Conservation Act issues at the continuation of the Board of Appeals hearing on June 5th at 7:00pm in Council Chambers. While we understand that the Building Board of Appeals has jurisdiction to review and decide appeals related to the Forest Conservation Act, we have no information regarding whether this is a public meeting, and whether the AEC can testify. The AEC requested clarification of these and other issues weeks prior to the April 18th hearing and again prior to the deadline for filing an appeal at the Building Board of Appeals a month ago. Still no answers.

New environmental policy which outlines justification for disturbing priority forest was drafted and adopted by DNEP just one week before the April 18th Board of Appeals hearing, without public comment, DNR review and key staff input. The undated policy was passed out at the April 18th hearing, the first time most had seen or heard of the policy. The AEC, with statutory authority under Chapter 10.04 of the 1978 Annapolis City Code, and the express mission to, "Promote the protection and improvement of the natural health and welfare of the environment of the City of Annapolis through public education, community service and **participation in City environmental policy**" (emphasis added), was also not included in the drafting or vetting process for the modification to the Forest Conservation Act.

The AEC's position is unanimous that the current plan for RQW should not be approved by the Board of Appeals or the Building Board of Appeals. The site contains valuable natural resources and forest areas that are considered Priority Forest for Retention. The Mayor has repeatedly told staff that he, as well as the residents of Annapolis, has high expectations that this will be a model project from an environmental perspective and that the burden is on the developer to show that it has met more than just the minimum requirements of the FCA. To that point, the developer could build 126 units out of 156 and greatly improve the plan by retaining valuable Priority Forest as well as protect the homeowners in the Hunt Meadow community from drainage issues that will impact them directly.

Crystal Spring:

The site, also known as Mas Que Farm or the Katherine property, contains nontidal wetlands, an intermittent stream and valuable forest. It is our understanding that there are still many outstanding issues that need to be resolved. The Mayor has the same high expectations of a model environmental project for this development as well and we hope to have the opportunity to meet with the developers of this site soon to discuss the natural resources on site and help ensure that any development can be planned around the most sensitive areas on site before the application for site plan review is formally submitted to the City. Our understanding is that by that time, the issues regarding how the City will administer the Forest Conservation Act should be resolved with the input of the public, AEC and the DNR.

EPA OKs Maryland Bay cleanup plan

The *Capital* reported today that Maryland is getting a thumbs-up from the federal government for its latest Chesapeake Bay cleanup plan. Read the full article [here](#).

AACC Professor's Operation Clearwater

Sally Horner, Ph.D, Professor of Biology at AACC, maintains an interesting [website](#) that shows bacteria levels in our local waterways as well as map data. The latest data shows "good evidence of the impact of stormwater on water quality."

Events Calendar

Rhythm on the River - June 2, 2012 (5-8pm)

We encourage everyone to come to West/Rhode Riverkeeper's biggest annual event. On the banks of the West river in Galesville, this family-friendly outdoor event will include live music, tasty local food, famous West/Rhode Rum Punch, and a sea kayak raffle. The proceeds from the modestly priced tickets will benefit the West/Rhode Riverkeeper. Please click here for [tickets and more information](#).

Continuation of the Board of Appeals Hearing - Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Join the AEC at the City Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. for the hearing on the Reserve at Quiet Waters.

World Environment Day - Tuesday, June 5, 2012

June 5th is World Environment Day. This year's theme is "Green Economy: Does it include you?" Read more about it [here](#).

Did you know that Sustainable Annapolis is on Facebook?
Follow [this link](#).

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***June 20, 7:30 p.m.
145 Gorman Street, 3rd floor conference room***

*The AEC is an independent board consisting of nine City residents who are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Aldermen to be concerned with the protection and improvement of the natural health and welfare of the environment.
The views portrayed by the AEC are not necessarily shared by the City of Annapolis, staff or elected officials.*

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